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**Silver Arrowhead Course
Trains Scouts as Leaders**

A Hamilton Spectator reporter, Edwin R. Black, wrote an account of the Silver Arrowhead Course at Mt. Nemo, in which a local scout, Ross McGillivray participated recently.

The story gives sidelights on scouting which are of general interest, and is reprinted below.

It was nearly dark when the trucks rumbled into the little cluster of tents. A few quickly spoken words, a messenger round to each group of lads wondering "what's up?" and fifteen minutes later the camp was practically deserted.

The boys hustled off in the trucks to fight a forest fire. Gripped in their hands were shovels, sacks, old blankets, canvas pieces, and thrown up in the front of the truck were packs.

But this time the Scouts — for Scouts indeed they were, were fooled. There was no forest fire, and they were deliberately stranded by their leaders miles from camp and their tents.

Scouts Fooled

But they were ready. Without specific instructions, each patrol, a group of six to eight boys, had thrown together, enough supplies, bedding and materials for shelter to see them through the "forest fire."

"That's the way we like to get the fellows," Scoutmaster Harry Cook of Hamilton, explained later. "We want them ready for anything and everything, without a lot of nonsense about telling them exactly how to tie their bootstraps and that kind of thing."

Specially Selected

But these boys were among the elite of Hamilton and the entire South Central Niagara Peninsula. The 31 were training at Silver Arrowhead course, held close by Mt. Nemo at the Scout camp site.

The Arrowhead series of Scouting awards relate to leadership. Only lads specially selected as good material to train as leaders of boys, and later leaders of men, were invited to attend. All were graduates of a bronze Arrowhead course, an intensive indoor series of lectures and demonstrations that exemplify the best of Scouting that can be taught indoors.

"But it's the outdoor work that's important," S. M. Cook, for so he is entitled, explained. "As we aren't merely teaching these boys about the outdoors — they know that now as experienced scouts, or they are supposed to. Here they are learning how to train their boys, and other leaders."

Coveted Award

The Arrowhead designation of the courses comes from a small replica worn on the bunch of shoulder ribbons that designate the patrol in each troop that each lad heads. The bronze Arrowheads are highly prized, the silver, something that ranks in desirability close to the Bushman's Thong, Scouting's highest possible earned award.

All are leaders in their own wide-into five patrols, The Beaver, Owl, Buffalo, Seal and Lynx. Each named after a wild thing, the group is summoned — particularly in bush country — by the patrol cry — the snap of a beaver's tale, an owl hoot, etc.

The patrol leader who issued all orders one day, becomes cook the next day, cheerfully submitting to all the gripes and complaints that characterize any group of (young) men doing their own cooking.

For there is no community dining hall here. "Cookie" rises at 6:30, rain or shine, and mostly it rains, and goes after the patrol's rations. It's his job to have breakfast — porridge, orange juice, eggs, toast and jam and tea or coffee ready by the time the other fellows are up at seven. And woe betide the cookie who sleeps too long and has six starving boys to explain to.

Not only that, but the leaders heading up the course eat with the various patrols. The easier of course, and ensures that the lads get good meals.

Suddenly "Fire". "That old storage shed's burning," some one shouts. A young fellow staggers out, coughing, collapses. "Jack is still back there," he chokes and passes out.

Three fellows whip off their neckerchiefs, usually worn around their neck. They're dipped in a bucket of water, put back on, and they disappear into the smoking shack. Another group, from the Beavers, it looked like, skinned their shirts off and rigged a temporary stretcher. The first lad was getting first aid within several minutes, the next soon after.

It took leaders quite a few minutes to persuade the boys not to bother with the bucket line — it was a cleverly staged emergency; another designed to test their wit and wisdom.

Plan Camps

The days were spent laying out futuristic camps, one under this set of conditions, another under a different set and so forth. Ideal menus — food must be nourishing, yet dry and easy to carry, pack and preserve — were discussed.

Sanitation needs were argued out, enhanced with some practical trench digging. Which was the best type for a grease pit — one topped with a strainer woven from cedar boughs or was grass and hay better? Try it and find out, that was the motto, and the practice.

Rope bridges and breeches buoys were slung across streams. Signaling towers constructed. Camp sites were closely inspected every day. A crumb of bread, tiny enough to escape a robin's attention, was noted lying discarded in the grass. "Five points off that patrol."

**Ransom Breed Developed
By Retiring OAC Professor**

Professor R. G. Knox, who has been head of the Department of Animal Husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural College since 1935, retired from this position on October 5th.

A native of Norwood, Ont., Prof. Knox graduated from the OAC in 1920, after his college career had been interrupted by active service in World War I as a member of the College Battery. After serving for a short time as Supervisor of the Soldier Settlement Board, he joined the staff of the Department of Animal Husbandry at the College and has been with the Department since that time.

Professor Knox developed a strain of Shorthorn cattle commonly known as the Ransoms, and through the use of a herd sire, OAC Ransom 23rd, built up the College Shorthorn herd to one of the outstanding Shorthorn herds at agricultural institutions in both Canada and the United States. Ransom breeding can now be found across Canada, and in many states in the U.S. and Ransoms have won grand championships at the CNE, Royal Winter Fair, and the International Livestock Exposition.

During his first ten years in the department he conducted extensive studies on the control of anemia in nursing pigs, and the solution to this problem saved pig producers many thousands of dollars. He was responsible for the establishment of the College's Arkell Farm of a swine research station, the first of its kind in Canada, and its plan of operation has been adopted at several provincial and federal institutions. For the past seven years he has been a swine judge at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

In 1938, he pioneered the first artificial insemination program in Canada, now widely established. He has demonstrated the possibility of reclaiming semi-marginal land as beef cattle pasture, thus bringing back into use land that has been out of production for years. He has made two trips to the "old country" to purchase livestock, in 1936 for the College herd, and in 1944 for the College herd and livestock breeders throughout the province. He has been an active supporter of all herd classification projects, including the one under development by the Canadian Shorthorn Association.

The herd sire testing station at the Arkell Farm has been under his direction since its inception, and he has established an IBM laboratory in the department for the analysis of experimental and research data. The service provided to the dairy breed associations and to the Livestock Branch through the research laboratory has not been available elsewhere.

Scouters Cook, H. B. Jacobl, of St. Catharines, and Edward Ascot, of Hamilton gave little talks. Leaders renamed in the background so far as possible. A Court of Honour consisting of each day's group of patrol leaders actually ran the camp. They made the decisions, decided the punishments should they be necessary, altered the program if desired and aired minor complaints.

In a curious ceremony, the meeting began with each lad stretching out one arm into circle, clenched fist held to the middle. As the promise was recited, first one, then another, and then a third finger was outstretched. At the conclusion, they were snapped back to attention in the Scout salute.

"The three fingers remind us of the three points of our promise," said Scout Cook. "We promise to do our duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law."

There was council fire, flag break and all the traditional form of Scout camping. Swimming, bridge building, tracking, roping, judging, distances, times, etc., practical axeman-ship, map reading, night expeditions and cocoa before bed. All found a place in the crammed program.

"The system works wonderfully well, because, when one is for it, his whole patrol suffers in their competitive standings and that just won't do they seem to think," Scoutmaster West explained.

"Yes, it's a process, and so will the next one be, and the next one for there's no telling what you can do when the lads are as willing as these boys are. When the big International Scout jamboree settles down here by Niagara next year, Hamilton, and the whole district, will have as fine a bunch of boys as you'll see among any of these Scouts from all over the world."

A staunch, and demanding promise. But one that promises fulfillment.

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